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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:

VERHOEVEN

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TITLE:

DEVICE FOR GRIPPING A FLEXIBLE CONTAINER

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Arlington, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

In connection with the subject application which is being filed concurrently herewith, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims, as follows:

Device for gripping a flexible container, such as a bag (17) filled 1. (Original) with fluid, comprising a chamber (15) that is open on one side (18) with a peripheral wall (2) that encloses the open side (18), a container support (8) that extends in the peripheral direction inside the peripheral wall (2), as well as an orifice (14) for connecting a vacuum source to the chamber (15), wherein the chamber (15) can be placed with the open side (18) against the container (17). such that a vacuum can be generated between the chamber (15) and the container (17) for